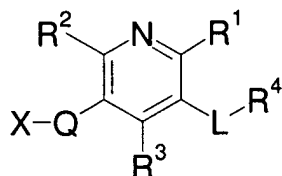


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different and each is

a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

R<sup>3</sup> is a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s), a halogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxy group, and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

R<sup>4</sup> is an amino group;

L is a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylene group;

Q is a bond, a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylene group or a C<sub>2-10</sub> alkenylene group; and

X is

(2) a cyano group;

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally

substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3f) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl

group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub>

alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6a) an amino group;

(6b) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;

(6c) a carboxy-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;

(6d) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6e) a carbamoylamino group;

(6f) a mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoylamino group;

(6g) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group;

(6h) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group and a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6j) a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6k) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6l) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6m) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6n) a C<sub>8-13</sub> arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcabonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

provided that

when X is an ethoxycarbonyl group, then Q is a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylene group or a C<sub>2-10</sub> alkenylene group

or a salt thereof.

23. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(2) a cyano group;

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3f) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocycloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or



(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 22, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a ~~C<sub>6-14</sub>~~ C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a ~~C<sub>1-6</sub>~~ C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is
- (3) (3a) a carboxyl group;
  - (3b) a carbamoyl group;
  - (3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;
  - (3d) an aromatic heterocycl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;
  - (3e) a non-aromatic heterocycl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;
  - (3f) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);
  - (3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;
  - (3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);
  - (3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;
  - (3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;
  - (3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

- (4) (4a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;
- (4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;
- (4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);
- (4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;
- (4e) a fused aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;
- (4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or
- (4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group;
- (5) (5a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;
- (5b) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or
- (5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

- (6) (6a) an amino group;
- (6b) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;
- (6c) a carboxy-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;
- (6d) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;
- (6e) a carbamoylamino group;
- (6f) a mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoylamino group;
- (6g) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group;
- (6h) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;
- (6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group and a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;
- (6j) a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;
- (6k) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;
- (6l) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;
- (6m) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbonylamino group;
- (6n) a C<sub>8-13</sub> arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;
- (6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;
- (6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl

group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcabonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.

28. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is a carboxyl group.

29. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, which is 5-(aminomethyl)-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-6-neopentylnicotinic acid;  
5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)nicotinic acid;  
methyl 3-([5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]methoxy)-1-methyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate;  
{[2-isobutyl-6-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)-5-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)pyridin-3-yl]methyl}amine;  
methyl 3-([5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]acetyl)amino)benzoate;  
N-[5-(aminomethyl)-6-isobutyl-2-methyl-4-(4-methylphenyl)pyridin-3-yl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide,  
or a salt thereof.

30. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof.

31. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 30, which is an agent for the treatment of the impaired glucose tolerance or obesity.

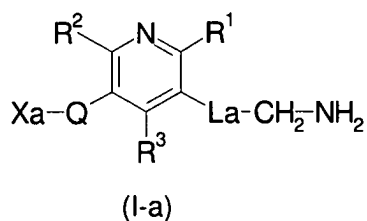
32. (Previously presented) A peptidase inhibitor comprising a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof.

33. (Previously presented) The inhibitor of claim 32, wherein the peptidase is dipeptidyl dipeptidase-IV.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of impaired glucose tolerance or obesity in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof to the mammal.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting peptidase in a mammal, which comprises administering a compound of claim 22 or a salt thereof to the mammal.

36. (Previously presented) A production method of a compound represented by the formula



wherein

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and Q are as defined in claim 22;

La is a bond or a C<sub>1-9</sub> alkylene group; and

Xa is

- (3) (3a) a carboxyl group;
- (3b) a carbamoyl group;
- (3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3



substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3f) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3m) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3

substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3n) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(3o) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3p) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3q) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3s) a phosphono group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3t) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group;

(3u) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(3v) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group; or

(3w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4) (4a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4e) a fused aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(4f) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(4g) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group;

(5) (5a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(5b) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group and a carbamoyl group; or

(5c) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclylthio group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6a) an amino group;

(6b) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;

(6c) a carboxy-C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylamino group;

(6d) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to

3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6e) a carbamoylamino group;

(6f) a mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoylamino group;

(6g) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonylamino group;

(6h) a C<sub>6-14</sub> arylsulfonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group;

(6i) an aromatic heterocyclyl-sulfonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group and a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6j) a mono- or di-(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl)-amino group;

(6k) a C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6l) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6m) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbonylamino group;

(6n) a C<sub>8-13</sub> arylalkenyl-carbonylamino group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6q) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group;

(6r) a tetrahydropyranylcabonylamino group;

(6s) a 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-benzofuranyl-carbonylamino group;

(6t) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(6u) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6v) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoylamino group; or

(6w) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbamoylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(7) (7a) tetrazolyl;

(7b) oxoimidazolidinyl;

(7c) dioxoimidazolidinyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7d) oxopiperazinyl;

(7e) dioxopiperazinyl;

(7f) oxodihydrooxadiazolyl;

(7g) dioxoisindolyl;

(7h) oxazolyl optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7i) dioxooxazolidinyl or dioxothiazolidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(7j) 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-yl or 4-oxo-2-thioxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl, each of which is optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

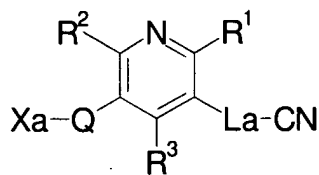
(7k) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-tetrahydroimidazo[1,5-a]pyridinyl;

(7l) 1,3(2H,5H)-dioxo-10,10a-dihydroimidazo[1,5-b]isoquinolinyl; or

(7m) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the

formula



(II)

wherein each symbol is as defined above, or a salt thereof to a reduction reaction.

37. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a phenyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s) and a halogen atom.

38. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocycl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocycl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-</sub>

<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

(3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3r) a non-aromatic heterocycloxy-carbonyl group;

(4) (4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group);

(4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocycloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6) (6d) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6l) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl group,

a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.

39. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is

(3) (3a) a carboxyl group;

(3b) a carbamoyl group;

(3c) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyloxy group;

(3d) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a thiocarbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;

(3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3g) a carbamoyl group mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

(3h) a carbamoyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally mono- or di-substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atom(s);

(3i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3j) a mono- or di-C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

(3k) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group,



- a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;
- (3l) an aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group; or
- (3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group.
40. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is
- (3) (3a) a carboxyl group;
- (3e) a non-aromatic heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group; or
- (3r) a non-aromatic heterocyclyloxy-carbonyl group.
41. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is
- (4) (4b) a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkoxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a hydroxy group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group;
- (4c) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfinyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group); or
- (4d) a 5- or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.
42. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 22, wherein X is
- (6) (6d) a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group;

(6l) a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a halogen atom, a cyano group, an optionally halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group and a carbamoyl group;

(6o) an aromatic heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>7-13</sub> aralkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group; or

(6p) a nitrogen-containing heterocyclyl-carbonylamino group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a c<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group (the c<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from a carboxyl group, a c<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group), a carboxyl group, a c<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group and a carbamoyl group.